

As you consider changes to the rules that govern the ownership of television, radio, cable and newspapers, I would like to let you know as a media consumer that I am not in favor of changing the current rules in place for ownership of television and newspapers. I am not in favor of allowing newspapers and television stations in the same market to be owned by the same company because it allows the potential for a reduction in the number of unique news sources and opinions open to consumers in any market. I am in favor of maintaining the current level of diversity in the media or improving on it, by encouraging diversity of ownership.

What has happened to the radio industry since the 1996 Telecommunications Act is a sign of what is to come if we relax the restrictions on media monopolies in television and print. I also support Senator Feingold's Competition in Radio and Concert Industries Act to help re-diversify the radio industry so that more stations can be owned by local owners and not by national conglomerates prescribing the same programming for several markets around the nation. Except for the radio industry in this country, I feel that the media system that we currently have is not broken, so there is no reason to "fix" it at this moment by rewriting the rules on media ownership. If anything, the FCC should be considering increasing diversity in media ownership instead of decreasing barriers to media monopolies across the USA.